

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

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Udon Thani



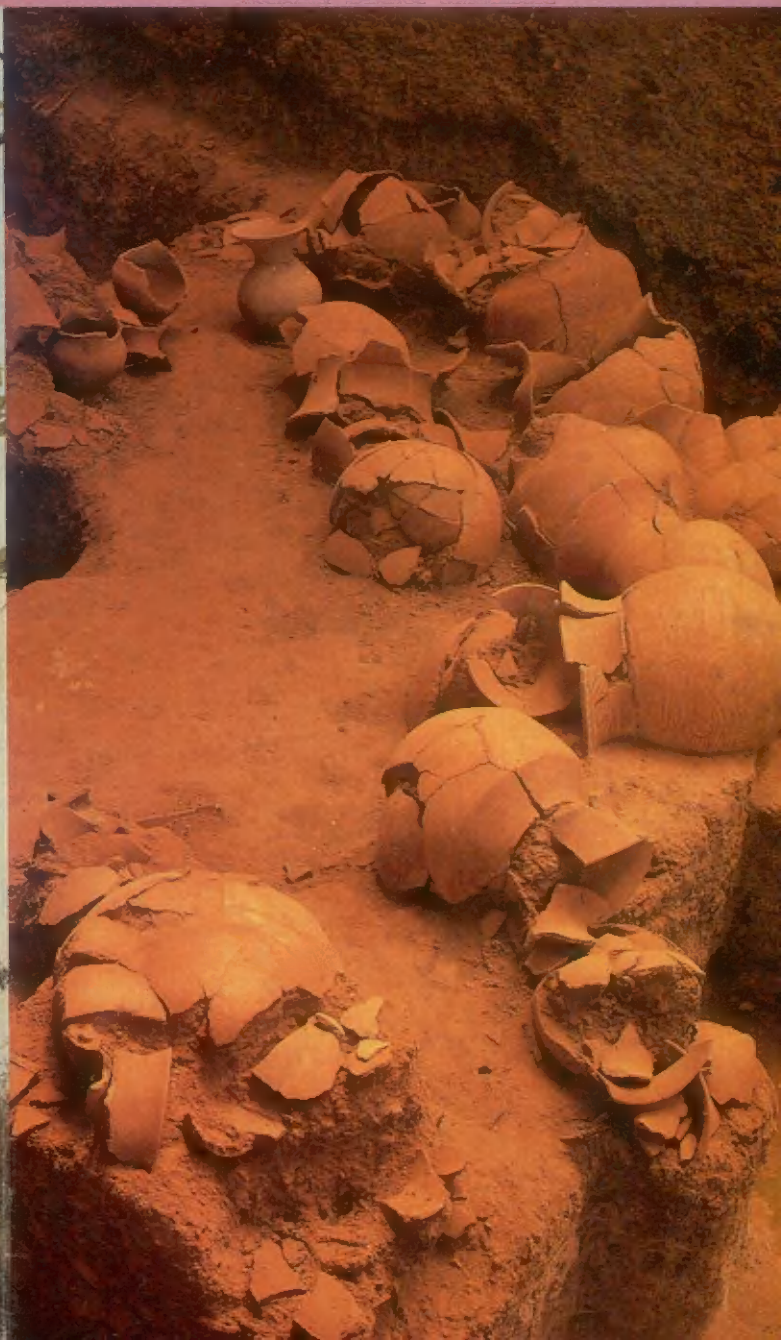
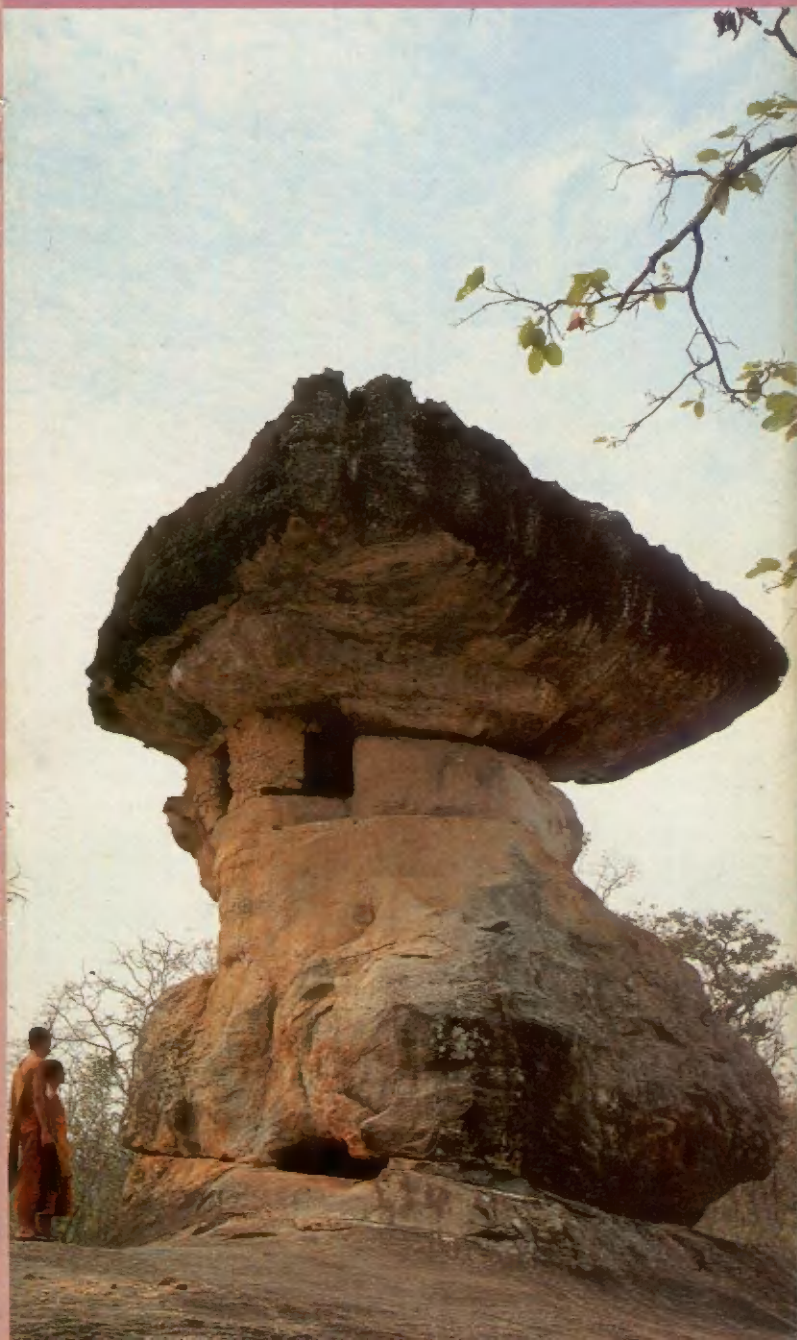
UDON THANI

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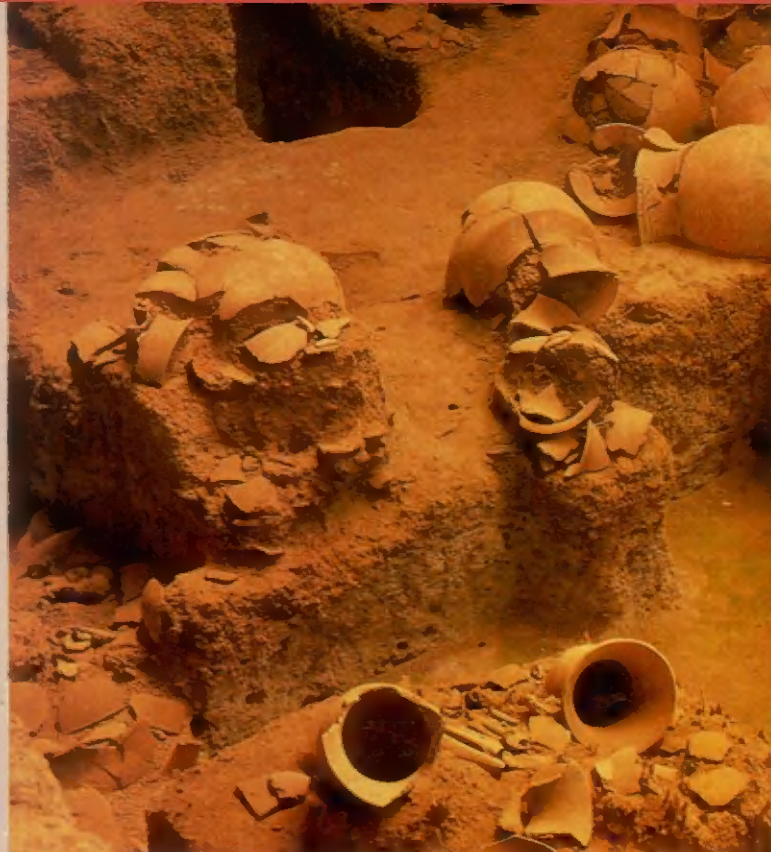
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Pha Khit, a kind of famous local handwoven fabric of Udon Thani



Udon Thani province, located on the northeastern plateau of Thailand, covers the third largest area in this region.

Its 15,589 square kilometre territory extends to Nong Khai province in the north, Khon Kaen province in the south, Sakon Nakhon province in the east, and Loei province in the west.

Geographical Features Udon Thani province is predominantly a plateau. On the west, a continuous chain of forested mountains runs southwards along the province's territorial boundary from Amphoe Nam Som and curves eastwards in the direction of Kalasin and Sakon Nakhon provinces. Here, the area gradually slopes down along Lum Huay Luang, finally to the Mae Khong River on the northeastern side of the province. The areas in Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu, Amphoe Na Klang, Amphoe Muang, Amphoe Kumphawapi, Amphoe Nong Han, Amphoe Nong Han, Amphoe Phen and Amphoe Ban Dung are alluvial basins suitable for farming.

Administration Udon Thani province divides its administration into twenty-one amphoes and one king-amphoe : Amphoe Muang Udon Thani, Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu, Amphoe Nong Wu So, Amphoe Nong Han, Amphoe Ban Phu, Amphoe Ban Dung, Amphoe Kumphawapi, Amphoe Non Sa-at, Amphoe Non Sang, Amphoe Si Bun Ruang, Amphoe Na Klang, Amphoe Phen, Amphoe Nam Som, Amphoe Kut Chab, Amphoe Si That, Amphoe Wang Sam Mo, Amphoe Suwannakhuha, Amphoe Thung Fon, Amphoe Sang Khom, Amphoe Chaiwan Amphoe Nong Saeng and King-Amphoe Na Yoong.



pre historic excavations discovered at Ban Chiang

Typical geometric designs of Ban Chiang pottery

Travelling to Udon Thani

By car From Bangkok, take Highway 1 (phaholyothin Highway) to Saraburi, near Kilometre 107, then go along Highway 2 (Friendship Highway) through Nakhon Ratchasima and Khon Kaen provinces to Udon Thani province, a total distance of 562 kilometres.

By bus There are both air-conditioned and non air-conditioned buses running between Bangkok and Udon Thani province every day, departing from the Northern Bus Terminal (Moh Chit) from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, please contact tel. 271-0101-5, and for air-conditioned buses, tel. 279-4484-7.

Apart from this, contact between Udon Thani province and nearby provinces has been made convenient by buses running every day and many shuttle-bus services running between Udon Thani and Ubon Ratchathani provinces. Transportation within the province is made possible by mini-buses that accommodate tourists all the time, and buses that run through all the different amphoes.

By train The State Railways of Thailand provides daily train services between Bangkok and Udon Thani province. For more information, please contact tel. 223-7010, 223-7020.

By air Thai Airways International Ltd. arranges daily flights from Bangkok to Udon Thani province. For more information, please contact tel. 280-0070, 280-0080.





Phra buddha Baat Bua Bok Stupa

The distance between Amphoe Muang and other Amphoes

Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Kumhawapi	43 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nong Han	35 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu	46 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Non Sang	92 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Ban Phu	55 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Phen	43 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Ban Dung	84 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Si Bun-Ruang	78 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Na Klang	75 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe That	72 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nam Som	110 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nong Wu So	39 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Kut Chab	24 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Suwannakhuha	110 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Non Sa-at	53 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Wang Sam Mo	96 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Sang Khom	68 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Thung Fon	65 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Chaiwan	62 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nong Saeng	35 Kilometres
Amphoe Muang - King-Amphoe Na Yoong	129 Kilometres



The Holy Footprint within Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok Stupa

Tourist attractions in the Amphoe Muang area.

Na Kha Village Located sixteen kilometres from the centre of Amphoe Muang along the Udon Thani-Nong Khai route (Highway 2), this village is on the right side, opposite the Na Kha Community School. "Khit" cloth weaving is practised here and the village also sells "Khit" cloth products at reasonable prices.

Ban Thon This village practises the weaving of "Khit" cloth and beautifully-patterned cotton fabric. The way to Ban Thon village runs sixteen kilometres along Highway 2 (Udon Thani-Nong Khai) and continues along a laterite junction road on the right hand for two more kilometres.

Nong Prachak Located in the Udon Thani municipality, Nong Prachak, a large lake on the west of the city, dates back before the setting up of Udon Thani province. Formerly called "Nong Na Klua," the lake has been renamed "Nong Prachak" in honour of Maj. Gen. Prince Prachak Silapakom, the founder of Udon Thani province. In 1987, the Udon Thani municipality renovated Nong Prachak to pay homage to the King on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. A variety of beautiful flowers were planted on the island in the middle of the lake. A bridge was built, to connect to the islands, as well as a fountain, a clock tower and a playground. Every day many people come to visit this place both for relaxation and exercise.

Wat Ban Tad The temple is situated at Ban Tad, Amphoe Muang, Udon Thani province. It is located nine kilometres to the right of the Ban Kong Kheng intersection, on Highway 2 (Udon Thani-Khon Kaen), going the Amphoe Kumhawapi. This temple is close to the Baan Talad community. The temple is in a forest on a hill, surrounded by rice fields, a total area of 163 rai. It is enclosed on all sides by concrete walls. The entrance is a large gate at the front of the temple. Access to the temple is possible only with the permission of the abbot. The walls surrounding the temple serve not only to outline the temple's definitive territory but also to protect numerous wild animals, such as pheasants, wild fowl, birds, squirrels, chipmunks and boars living in the forest areas of the temple against poachers. Wat Ban Tad is the home of Phra Acharn Maha Bua Yansumpanno, a strict disciple of Phra Acharn Mun Phurithatto, who is revered by Buddhists. The inside of this temple is suitable for those who wish to practise Buddhist teachings.

Tourist attractions on Highways 2,2021

(Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Ban Phu - King Amphoe Na Yoong - Amphoe Nam Som)

Phoo Phra Baat Historical Park Situated at the foot of the Phu Phan Mountain Range, in Moo Ban Tew, Tambon Muang Phan, Amphoe Ban Phu, is Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok. The surrounding area consists of caves and a natural stone arch, showing the evolution of nature and human civilization. This tourist attraction is six kilometres from Amphoe Muang on Highway 2 (Udon Thani - Nong Khai). On reaching kilometre 13, turn left on to Highway 2021 to Amphoe Ban Phu. After 42 kilometres, turn right for five hundred metres, then turn left on to the asphalt-paved Road 2348 for another twelve kilometres.

Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok A stupa, built between 1920 and 1934, was used to cover Buddha's footprint the phrase Phra Buddha Baat in Thai). The word "Bua Bok" is the name of a wild plant, resembling a lotus in its leaves and roots. It is known locally as "Phak Nog." The plant "Bua Bok" is thought to have been widespread around the site of the Buddha's footprint, thus the name "Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok." Another hypothesis is that the name "Bua Bok" might have been derived from the word "Boh Bok," referring to arid plants. From the thirteenth to the fifteenth nights of the third lunar month, an annual ceremony of homage to the Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok is held. Not far from Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok there are many interesting places to visit such as Lai Meu Cave, Non Sao Ac Cave, Khon Cave and Wua Daeng Cave (These caves are thought to be the home of Stone Age humans who painted drawings of humans, hands, animals and geometrical figures). Apart from the caves there is also a beautiful stone terrace, Non Sao Ae Stone Terrace. Nature has created such stone terraces, inspiring later generations of people to create a folktale called "Nang Usa-Tao Barot." These stone terraces are Kok Ma Tao Barot (Tao Barot's Stable), Hoh Nang Usa (Nang Usa's Chamber) and Boh Nam Nang Usa (Nang Usa's Pool). Fragments of engraved religious boundary stones and engraved sandstone Buddha images from the Dvaravati period are found at the stone terraces of Wat Pho Ta and Wat Luke Khoey. At present a laterite road has been built to the right, two kilometres before reaching Phra Buddha Baat Bua Bok. Vehicles may enter the historical project site. From the parking area, tourists may visit the many archaeological attractions that are linked by 200-300 metres of walkway.

Na Yoong Nam Som Forest Park

Yoong Thong Waterfall located at Ban Sawang, Moo 2, Tambon Na Yoong, King-Amphoe Na Yoong is a waterfall on the ridge of Phu Phan and Phu Ya Ou, where a stream flows through the steep rock cliff. Yoong Thong Waterfall is three metres high and composed of water beautifully cascading amongst the stones, especially during the rainy season when it thunders down in torrents among the lush, green flora. Located 103 kilometres from Amphoe Muang, the route to the waterfall passes through Amphoe Ban Phu and Amphoe Nam Som. Upon reaching Amphoe Nam Som, junction from Nam Suem Village leads to the Reserve

Park junction, seventeen kilometres away. The route is part of the project of the Office of Accelerated Rural Development, aimed at speeding up the development in the rural area. It is in good condition and can be used all the year round.

Tourist attractions on Highway 210

(Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu - Amphoe Na Klang)

Huay Luang Reservoir Located in Amphoe Muang, ten kilometres from the junction at Kilometres 15 on Highway Udon Thani - Loei, this is a large reservoir under the responsibility of the Royal Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. The reservoir has an area of approximately 20,000 rai, can retain 113 million cubic metres of water and can distribute water for agriculture to 86,000 rai. Huay Luang is also a tourist attraction with a beautiful landscape suitable for rafting, fishing and boating. The Government has built a palace for the Queen Mother Srinakharin, who comes to stay nearly every year.

Travelling to Huay Luang Reservoir is very convenient.

Yoong Thong Waterfall



Wat Tham Klong Pen This renowned forest temple is located two kilometres to the left to the Udon Thani - Loei Highway, forty kilometres from Amphoe Muang. Situated at the foot of the Phu Phan Mountain chain, this temple was the meditation place of Phra Acharn Luang Poo Kao Analayo, a disciple of Phra Acharn Luang Poo Mun Phumithattathera, who is revered by Thais nationwide. It is believed that the ancient temple was originally built some eight centuries ago but the exact date is unknown. The temple was left deserted until 1958 when Phra Acharn Luang Poo Kao Analayo came for religious practices until his death in 1983. Buddhists come to pay respect to his relics. Temple surroundings are peaceful and ideal for those who seek mental tranquility. In the temple grounds, there are a cave, housing an ancient two-faced drum, Phra Buddha Bunthornnimit, a stone - engraved Buddha image in the walking attitude and the Luang Poo Kao Museum, where a collection of his utensils and a statue of Luang Poo Kao are displayed for Buddhists to see and worship.

The Monument and the Shrine of King Naresuan the Great Erected near Nong Bua Lam Phu, a lake, Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu, Udon Thani Province, this monument was built in memory of King Naresuan the Great who, along with his father, Phra Maha Thammaraja, led an army to Tamboon Nong Bua Lam Phu in 1574. While Ayutthaya was under the yoke of the Hongsawadee Kingdom, these troops were sent out to help King Hongsawadee fight against the Srisatanakhanahut Kingdom (Vientiane). However, on reaching Tamboon Nong Bua, which is the present day Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu, King Naresuan the Great fell ill from smallpox. Therefore, King Hongsawadee ordered the troops back to Ayutthaya. Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu has a life-sized monument of King Naresuan the Great in memory of this incident, erected in a standing position and holding a sword. This statue is highly respected by Udon Thani people. On Thai Army Memorial day, which falls on January 25, Udon Thani province performs a ritual in homage for the soul of King Naresuan the Great.

Asphalt-paved roads make travelling from Amphoe Muang to the monument of King Naresuan the Great very easy. It is only forty - eight kilometres from Amphoe Muang on Highway 210 (Udon Thani - Loei Highway.)

Erawan Cave This is a large cave in Amphoe Na Kiang. Its entrance is very much higher than ground level and a curving stairway of 107 steps ascends from the base of the hill to the mouth of the cave. The cave interior resembles a large hall, capable of accommodating hundreds of people. Stalagmites and stalactites create an exotic beauty. This cave has an opening onto a high cliff overlooking the picturesque fields below and is the setting of the folktale "Nang Phom Horm."

Tourist attractions on Highway 22 Udon Thani - Sakon Nakhon (Amphoe Muang - Amphoe Nong Han)

Ban Chiang National Museum. Located at Ban Chiang,



Pre-historic rock paintings

Tamban Ban Chiang, Amphoe Nong Han, it comprises two parts. The first part stores antiques. Inside the building, old artifacts, ancient Ban Chiang culture, tools and utensils that show ancient technology and surroundings, as well as earthenware pots from 4,000 to 7,500 years old, are displayed. The second part comprises an open museum in the compound of Wat Po Si Nai. The Fine Arts Department has retained the conditions of archaeological excavations to show how earthenware pots and other items were buried along with the dead. Ban Chiang National Museum is considered the first open museum in Thailand. As for the "Ban Chiang" earthenware pots, they are known worldwide because "Ban Chiang" was the origin of a pre-historic civilization many years ago. Archaeologists believe the designs on Ban Chiang earthenware are the oldest pot designs in the world.

Travelling to Ban Chiang National Museum is very easy. It is only fifty-six kilometres from Amphoe Muang. The route runs along Highway 22 and turns left onto Highway 2225 at Kilometre 50. There, a road sign indicates the way to Ban Chiang which is six kilometres away. The museum is open to the general public every day, except Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The admission fee is 5 baht. The museum has a parking area. Toilets and village shops are located nearby.

Tourist attractions on Highway 2, 2109 (Udon Thani - Khon Kaen)

Phu Kao and Phu Phan Kham National Park was set up in 1985 covering an area of 322 square kilometres. The Park's office is located by the lake shore, a part of Ubolratana Dam by Phu Phan Kham in Amphoe Non Sang. Its major tourist attractions are Phu Phan Kham and Phu Kao.



Shady, tranquil atmosphere of Wat Pa Na Kham Noi

Phu Phan Kham is a mountain chain stretching from north to south, that is from Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu to Ubolratana Dam, and also serves as a boundary line, separating Udon Thani and Khon Kaen. Located to the east of the Nam Pong River and comprising the upper part of the Phu Phan Mountain Range, it provides picturesque scenery. The lake also serves as a fish breeding ground and is a popular fishing area in Udon Thani. Tourists may stay in the camping area or in the National Park's bungalows.

Phu Kao consists of nine mountains : Phu Fang, Phu Khun Poon, Phu Han, Phu Moey, Phu Kho Moh, Phu Chan, Phu Proh, Phu Luak and Phu Wat. They are rich in flora and fauna; there are waterfalls, caves and stone terraces. In the "Pla Hai" cave, colourful prehistoric paintings of human palms can be seen and beautiful scenery can be observed from the "Ho Sawan" pavilion. Another tourist destination is Wat Phra Buddha Baat Phu Kao where human and canine footprints related to the local folklore "Phra Suphrom Wimoke and the Nine Tailed Dog" and engraved on stone.

There are two routes for travelling to Phu Kao and Phu Phan Kham National Park :

Route 1. Following Highway 2109 (Khon - Kaen - Ubolratana Dam) to Ubolratana District Market, which is about fifty kilometres, take the local bus running from Ubolratana Dam to Non Sang (about six kilometres), to the National Park's office.

Route 2. Following Highway 210 (Udon Thani - Loei) turning into Amphoe Non Sang at Amphoe Nong Bua Lam Phu Intersection. Continue on Highway 2146 for another forty kilometres until the Ban Sok Chan Intersection, then turn into Ban Sok Chan - Ubolratana Dam. The distance to the National Park's office is about fifty - four kilometres.

For accommodation, reservations and information, please contact Phu Kao and Phu Phan Kham National Park, Khon Kaen Forestry Office Muang District, Khon Kaen or National Park Division, Royal Forestry Department, Bangkok. Tel. 5790529, 5794842.

Hotels

(long - distance telephone code number 042)

Charoen Hotel 549 Posri Road, Muang District, Tel. 248155
Fax. 246126

Air - conditioned rooms from Baht 380 to Baht 1,000

Udon Hotel 81-89 Maak Kaeng Road, Muang District, Tel. 248160

Air - conditioned rooms from Baht 250 to Baht 600

Siri Udon Hotel 79-91 Amphoe Road, Tel. 221658, 222331

Fan and air - conditioned rooms from Baht 150 to Baht 300

Paradise Hotel 44/29 Posri Road, Muang District,
Tel. 221956, 221506

Fan and air - conditioned rooms from Baht 100 to Baht 200

Srichai Hotel 480-484 Posri Road, Muang District,
Tel. 221903, 222624

Fan and air - conditioned rooms from Baht 120 to Baht 400

Charoensri Palace 60 Posri Road, Muang District,
Tel. 222601, 242614

Air - conditioned rooms from Baht 300 to Baht 800

Kings Hotel 57 Posri Road, Muang District, Tel. 222919

Fan and air - conditioned rooms from Baht 100 to Baht 200

Pen Resort Hotel Udon - Loei Highway (Km. 6) Muang District,
Tel. 221913

Air - conditioned rooms from Baht 250 to Baht 350

Note : Prices subject to change without prior notice. Please inquire before checking in

Travel and car-rental agencies

Toy-Ting Tour 55/1-5 Taharn Road, Tel. 244771

Karnnikar Tour 36/8 Sri Sattha Road, Tel. 241378

K.C. Agency Charoen Hotel Posri Road, Tel. 246121

Restaurants (long distance code 042)

Phu Wiang Restaurant Charoen Hotel.

Phu Mintr 22/11-3 Rachapasadu Road, Tel. 241287

Wirat Pochana 49 Posri Road, Tel. 222647

Udon Pochana 244/5 Posri Road, Tel. 221756

Jing Jo Bakery 41/1 Charoensri Plaza, Tel. 221878

Donut House 45/1 Posri Road, Tel. 243018

Chao Wung 207/1 Nitral Road, Tel. 223088

Khray Mai 56 Maak Kaeng Road, Tel. 221815

Suan Sawan Lab Pet 2/17 Srisook Road, Tel. 221287

Lian Nam Nueng 7/39 Mookamontri Road

Souvenirs

Local "khit" cloth, silk, earthenware, preserved meats (Kun Chiang, Moo Yor, Naem), dry shredded pork (Moo Yong), and sweetened coconut comprise popular purchases.

INFORMATION SECTION
TOURIST SERVICE DIVISION
TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND
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A Map of tourist attractions in Udon Thani

● A = Amphone

